

Voluntary - Public

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MRL changes in Acequinocyl Imidacloprid Tefuryltrione Novaluron EPN and other 5 chemicals

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On June 26, 2009, Government of Japan announced proposed changes to the MRLs for Acequinocyl, Imidacloprid, Tefuryltrione, Novaluron, EPN, Oxaziclomefone, Diclocymet, Fenoxanil, Ferimzone and Pretilachlor. The comment period will close on July 10, 2009. After the domestic comment period closes, MHLW will then notify these proposed changes to the WTO/SPS Committee, which will provide another chance for public comments to be submitted to this subject.

General Information:

On June 26, 2009, Government of Japan announced proposed changes to the MRLs for Acequinocyl, Imidacloprid, Tefuryltrione, Novaluron, EPN, Oxaziclomefone, Diclocymet, Fenoxanil, Ferimzone and Pretilachlor. The comment period will close on July 10, 2009. After the domestic comment period closes, MHLW will then notify these proposed changes to the WTO/SPS

Committee, which will provide another chance for public comments to be submitted to this subject. Then after the closing of a the comment period in the WTO, a final report will be made based on the conclusions of a session of the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council slated to be held at a later date; this will constitute the final decision.

The comments can be either Japanese or English.

If you have comments, please send them directly to the Japanese Government at:

Standards and Evaluation Division,
Department of Food Safety,
Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau,
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
1-2-2, Chiyoda-ku, Kasumigaseki, Tokyo, 100-
Tel: 03-5253-1111
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Please also consider copying the U.S. Embassy, Tokyo at agtokyo@usda.gov on your comments in order for them to be considered as part of the official U.S. Government comments to the WTO.

Pesticides and Other Contaminants:

Establishment of Maximum Residue Limits for Agricultural Chemicals in Food

Purpose and Background

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) is going to develop the compositional specification for food.

Under the provisions of Article 11, Paragraph 1 of the Food Sanitation Law, the MHLW is authorized to establish residue standards (maximum residue limits: MRLs) for pesticides, feed additives, and veterinary drugs (hereafter referred to as just "agricultural chemicals") that may remain in foods. Any food for which standards are established pursuant to the provisions is not permitted to be marketed in Japan unless such food complies with the established standards. On May 29, 2006, the MHLW introduced the positive list system for agricultural chemicals in food.* Basically, all foods distributed in the Japanese marketplace are subject to regulation based on the system.

This time the MHLW has newly established MRLs (draft) for some food commodities as well as has comprehensively reviewed the current MRLs. This activity is targeted to ten pesticides: Acequinocyl, Imidacloprid, Tefuryltrione, Novaluron, EPN, Oxaziclomefone, Diclocymet, Fenoxanil, Ferimzone and Pretilachlor. Details are given below.

Note: The positive list system was established based on the 2003 amendment of the Food Sanitation Law. The system aims to prohibit the distribution of any food in the Japanese marketplace if it contains agricultural chemicals at amounts exceeding a certain level (0.01 ppm) specified under the Law.

Outline of revision

Acequinocyl (acaricide)

This chemical is already permitted for use in Japan. An application has been filed by the Korean Government with the MHLW for the establishment of MRLs for the chemical, based on the Guideline for Application for Establishment and Revision of Maximum Residue Limits for Agricultural Chemicals Used outside Japan, published on 5 February 2004. In response to the application, the MHLW has newly established MRLs (draft) for some crops and comprehensively reviewed the existing MRLs. For draft MRLs, see Attachments 1-1.

The MHLW already explained in the previous FSG meeting about the setting of MRLs for crops for which the use of this pesticide was newly permitted.

Imidacloprid (insecticide)

This chemical is already permitted for use in Japan. This time the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) will expand the scope of target crops for which the use of the chemical is permitted. Also, an application has been filed by a foreign business with the MHLW for the establishment of MRLs for this chemical, based on the Guideline for Application for Establishment and Revision of Maximum Residue Limits for Agricultural Chemicals Used outside Japan, published on 5 February 2004. In response to the MAFF's action and the manufacture's application, the MHLW has newly established MRLs (draft) for some crops and comprehensively reviewed the existing MRLs. For draft MRLs, see Attachments 1-2.

You may find Japanese MRLs in several crops are lower than US MRLs. Please note that the total of Imidacloprid and its metabolites is used as residue in the US but Imidacloprid is solely used as residue in Japanese regulation.

Tefuryltrione (herbicide)

This chemical is not permitted for use in Japan. This time MAFF has decided to approve the chemical based on the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Law. In response to the MAFF's action, the MHLW has newly established MRLs (draft) for some crops. Currently, MRLs are not set for any crops. For draft MRLs, see Attachments 1-3.

Novaluron (insecticide)

This chemical is already permitted for use in Japan. This time MAFF will expand the scope of target crops for which the use of the chemical is permitted. Also, an application has been filed by the Korean Government with the MHLW for the establishment of MRLs for the chemical, based on the

Guideline for Application for Establishment and Revision of Maximum Residue Limits for Agricultural Chemicals Used outside Japan, published on 5 February 2004. In response to the MAFF's action and the Korean application, the MHLW has newly established MRLs (draft) for some crops and comprehensively reviewed the existing MRLs. For draft MRLs, see Attachments 1-4.

EPN (insecticide)

This chemical is already permitted for use in Japan. This time MAFF will expand the scope of target crops for which the use of the chemical is permitted. In response to the MAFF's action, the MHLW has newly established MRLs (draft) for some crops. In addition, the MHLW has newly established an MRL (draft) for the "aquatic animals" category. For draft MRLs, see Attachments 1-5.

Oxaziclomefone (herbicide), Diclocymet (fungicide), Fenoxanil (fungicide), Ferimzone (fungicide), and Pretilachlor (herbicide)

These chemicals are already permitted for use in Japan. The MHLW has newly established an MRL (draft) for the "aquatic animals" category and also reviewed the existing MRLs. For draft MRLs, see Attachments 1-6, 1-7, 1-8, 1-9 and 1-10.

The existing MRLs for Acequinocyl, Imidacloprid, Oxaziclomefone, and Ferimzone appear in either of the MRLs List (the Item 6, Section A "General Compositional Standards for Food," Part I "Food" of the Specifications and Standards for Food, Food Additives, Etc.) or Provisional MRLs List (Item 7, Section A), according to food commodities. These MRLs have been modified as necessary. Finalized MRLs will be placed on the MRLs List in Item 6, and the MRLs currently placed in Item 7 will be deleted.